



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Trade and Foreign
Agricultural
Affairs

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

1400 Independence
Avenue, S.W.
Stop 1004
Washington, D.C.
20250-1004

February 27, 2019

Delivered via Electronic Mail

Mr. Russ Kick
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 69704
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144-2516
69704-64049351@requests.muckrock.com

Re: Acknowledgement of Freedom of Information Act Request
FOIA Case No. 24-2019

Dear Mr. Kick:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your February 24, 2019 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). Your request was received in this office on February 25, 2019.

The FOIA regulation 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i) requires FAS to make a determination in response to a FOIA request within 20 business days from its date of receipt. In unusual circumstances, the Federal agency time limit may be extended by 10 business days as stated in 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B). If your request seeks numerous documents that necessitate a wide ranging search including searches with components and possible consultation with components that have a substantial interest in the determination of the request, FAS will invoke a 10 business day extension for determination of your request. In that case, you have the option to narrow the scope of your request to limit the number of potentially responsive records.

Provisions of the FOIA allow USDA to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. For purposes of fee assessment, you were categorized as an “all other” requester, pursuant to 7 CFR Appendix A to Subpart A of Part 1 Section (5)(d). For your review and information, a copy of the USDA FOIA Fee Schedule is enclosed. In accordance with 7 CFR Appendix A to Subpart A of Part 1 Section 6(a)(4), your fees shall be waived where the amount of the fee is \$25.00 or less. You will be contacted before any fees over \$25.00 are accrued.

We will query the appropriate component[s] of FAS for responsive records. If any responsive records are located, they will be reviewed for determination of releasability. Please be assured that the FOIA Analyst in this office will respond to your request as expeditiously as possible. We appreciate your patience as we proceed with your request.

Your request has been assigned FOIA Case No. 24-2019. Please refer to this case number in any future correspondence. If you have any questions regarding the processing of this request, please contact FOIA Officer, Ms. Rochelle Foster at (202) 720-2936 or electronically at rochelle.foster@fas.usda.gov. For additional information regarding USDA FOIA regulations and process, please refer to the information available online at www.dm.usda.gov/foia.

We appreciate the opportunity to assist you in this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/

Rochelle Foster
FAS FOIA Officer

Enclosures: FOIA Request
USDA FOIA Fee Schedule